



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Monday 13 May 2019 – Morning

AS Level English Language

H070/01 Exploring language

Resource Booklet

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes



INSTRUCTIONS

- The material in this **Resource Booklet** is for use with the questions in **Section A** and **Section B** of the Question Paper.

INFORMATION

- This document consists of **8** pages.

The material in this **Resource Booklet** relates to the questions in the Question Paper.

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SECTION A – Understanding language features in context

Text A

Text A is an extract from an article in the *Guardian online*, published in May 2018 under the ‘Education’ tab. It concerns student performance in examinations.

[sic] – the text has been transcribed exactly as found in the source text

Students don’t do so well in exams when it’s hot – so is it time to overhaul the academic year?

New US research suggests a drop in performance with rises in average yearly temperature. Bad news for the UK’s sweltering students? Discuss

Laura McInerney

Wed 30 May 2018 15.45 BST Last modified on Wed 30 May 2018 17.50 BST

Soggy May bank holidays are not celebrated by most people, but young people revising for school exams may benefit from them, after US researchers discovered that hotter temperatures lead to worse grades.

The data is extensive. Academics at Harvard, UCLA and Georgia State University used the scores of more than 10 million secondary students over 13 years and compared temperature changes in hot southern and colder northern states. In every case, a half-degree rise in the average temperature over the year equaled a 1% drop in average exam scores.

Over in the UK, things be [sic] even worse, as the researchers found that air conditioning potentially buffers low scores. It is easier to find a British school with windows jammed shut than it is to find one with air conditioning. This makes financial sense: there aren’t enough hot periods in the year to make it worthwhile. But the month when average high temperatures do tend to edge past 21C (70F) – which is when the negative effects begin – is June, the same month that most exams take place.

All of which raises the question of why we use early summer – filled with distracting sports tournaments and occasional heatwaves – to make students sit their most important tests? Why not instead have young people sit their exams online when it is most convenient for their learning, and for their sweat glands?

As anyone who ever campaigned against the long school summer holiday will tell you, the deceptively simple idea of changing the academic year is actually very complicated. Schools are not unique in following a September-to-July pattern. So do large firms’ graduate intakes. And universities. And the law courts. Most crucially of all, so does Westminster, making it hard for politicians to argue for ending the system when wishing to maintain it for themselves [sic].

UK school exam marking is also some of the most rigorous in the world and the process relies on everyone sitting the tests at the same time. Overly rigid? Perhaps. But it comes with a serious benefit. The scores pupils need for a given grade change each year depending on average scores. Hence, if a scorching summer temporarily obliterates children’s intelligence, they at least shouldn’t be at any long-term disadvantage. And if this year turns out to be another drab, wet British summer, they can rest even easier.

SECTION B – Comparing and contrasting texts**Text B**

Text B is a transcript of part of a radio interview with ex-Prime Minister Gordon Brown in April 2010. It was conducted by Martha Kearney for the Radio 4 Programme *World at One*. The interview concerned the MPs' expenses scandal and a caller is questioning Gordon Brown on the subject.

Transcribed from "World at One", April 2010, Radio 4, BBC. Item removed due to third party copyright restrictions.

Transcribed from 'World at One', April 2010, Radio 4, BBC. Item removed due to third party copyright restrictions.

TRANSCRIPTION KEY:

- (.) micropause
// overlapping speech
bold text emphatic stress

*quango – a semi-public administrative body outside the civil service but receiving financial support from the government.

SECTION B – Comparing and contrasting texts

Text C

Text C is an extract from the *Telegraph Online* reviewing the MPs' expenses scandal over a five-year period. It was published in 2014.

The Telegraph

MPs' expenses: A scandal that will not die

Five years on, politics is still tainted by the expenses crisis. Even many MPs believe that only a radical initiative will convince voters that Westminster has really changed



Sajid Javid, the Culture Secretary Photo: Bloomberg

By **Iain Martin**

7:00AM BST 13 Apr 2014

Five years ago next month, *The Telegraph* began publishing its exposé of [MPs' expenses](#), triggering the most explosive British political scandal of the modern era. At the time, the extraordinary revelations of abuse by some MPs – complete with jaw-dropping details of fraud, fake receipts, claims for ornamental duck houses and moat-cleaning – caused such a sensation that it seemed for a while as though the Palace of Westminster might at any moment be stormed by an army of justifiably irate taxpayers.

Voters were already furious with the Establishment. The previous autumn, several of Britain's biggest banks had come within hours of collapse, requiring bail-outs to the tune of many tens of billions of pounds, all approved by ministers who had failed to regulate the reckless banks properly in the boom years. As the country headed into the deepest recession in seven decades, here were some of our elected representatives caught with their hands in the till, taking public money in vast amounts. The storm which broke over Westminster was unlike anything experienced even by the most jaded MPs and journalists.

Yet five years on, the row over what MPs can claim for travel and as living expenses when they are in London goes on. The after-effects of the expenses crisis are still affecting the fortunes of the Government, although now it is Mr Cameron who is under pressure. “Expenses hang over this place,” said a weary Tory MP last week.

Sajid Javid entered the Commons in 2010, after the then MP for Bromsgrove, Julie Kirkbride, was forced to stand down over her expenses claims. Mr Javid replaced her at the general election. Ms Kirkbride’s husband, Andrew MacKay, who was a senior adviser and confidant of David Cameron, also stood down as an MP in 2010 when it was revealed that the pair had indulged in “double-dipping”, both claiming whopping allowances for second homes, based on the pretense that neither of their houses was their main address. At a stormy public meeting in May 2009, which was filmed, Mr MacKay was denounced by outraged constituents.

If the House of Commons was unpopular before those events of five years ago, it plumbed new depths in the months afterwards. It seemed as though the inhabitants of the Commons lived by an entirely different set of rules from those they represented. The scandal had not only exposed fraud in the more extreme cases, but a lid had been lifted on the strange world of Westminster.

Says a veteran MP: “A lot of the new boys and girls arrived in 2010 having campaigned on the basis that they were whiter than white and gave the impression that they thought every single one of us older MPs was a crook. A few years of dealing with *IPSA seems to have given them a new perspective.”

MPs who are pressurising ministers believe that only a radical initiative will convince voters that Westminster has really changed.

“This will go on and on,” says Mr Carswell, “until voters have the right to recall and sack their MP.”

*IPSA – an independent body set up to regulate MPs’ salaries, pensions, business costs and expenses.

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